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United Nations Office for Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP).

Based on the success of the UNFIP model of grant making and programme management, in 2005 the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) was created under UNFIP management and administration. In addition, owing to the success of UNFIP partnerships activities and Robert E. Turner's philanthropic donation which paved the way for increased private sector engagement in United Nations causes, there has been an increasing demand for partnership advisory services by the Organization, State and non-State actors. This has led to the evolution of the United Nations Office for Partnerships, which manages UNFIP, UNDEF as well as Partnership Advisory Services and Outreach. The present report provides information on the activities in the three areas. It supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/700 and Add.1, A/54/664 and Add.1-3, A/55/763 and Corr.1, A/57/133, A/58/173, A/59/170, A/60/327 and A/61/189).

Regarding UNFIP, a total of $191.2 million was programmed for 2006. Broken down by programme area, the grants were distributed as follows: children's health, $180.5 million for eight new projects; population and women, $3.2 million for three projects; environment, $1.0 million for six projects; peace, security and human rights, $0.1 million for two projects; and $6.4 million for five projects outside the four focus areas. Since the partnership between UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation was launched in 1998, a total of $994.4 million has been programmed.

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Regarding UNDEF, a total of $36 million was programmed for 125 projects, distributed as follows: civic education, electoral support and political parties, $10 million for 35 projects; democratic dialogue and constitutional processes, $9.8 million for 32 projects; civil society empowerment, $5.2 million for 22 projects; accountability, transparency and integrity, $5.8 million for 20 projects; human rights and fundamental freedoms, $3.1 million for 11 projects; and access to information, $2 million for 7 projects.

The successful partnership between UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation has provided a number of useful models for engaging non-State actors. Lessons learned through this partnership have helped the United Nations Office for Partnerships to serve as a gateway for new alliances and partnerships for the United Nations system to work more effectively with the private sector and civil society. In 2006 the Office handled almost 500 inquiries from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and foundations wishing to collaborate with the United Nations system.

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I. Introduction

1. In his previous report (A/61/189), the Secretary-General concluded that the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) had become the facilitator for new partnerships and alliances with the private sector, foundations and civil society organizations, building on the role of UNFIP as the interface with the United Nations Foundation. It is further recalled that the Secretary-General informed Member States about the establishment of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) and its placement within UNFIP. The institutional experience of UNFIP in administering projects and in dealing with implementing agencies and civil society provided a ready-made model for the Fund.

2. Thus a United Nations Office for Partnerships evolved, managing the following three areas: UNFIP; UNDEF; and Partnership Advisory Services and Outreach.

3. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP continue to collaborate on innovative ways of mobilizing resources for United Nations causes, addressing global problems through public-private partnerships. As the high-level interface with the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP manages grants and related activities.

4. The United Nations Democracy Fund attained full operational status as a Trust Fund in 2006. At its first Advisory Board meeting in March 2006, the Board recommended funding 125 projects at a total value of $36 million for democracy-building projects, focused on civil and political rights, voters' education, political party capacity development, and strengthening participation of women in political processes. The Democracy Fund supports such activities in democratic governance in some 80 countries.

5. These two functions (UNFIP, UNDEF) underpin the Office's third function: Partnership advisory services and outreach to the United Nations system, State and non-State actors. In line with the mandate from Member States in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), the partnership-building activities have the twin objectives of educating the public in the work of the Organization and engaging new partners for the United Nations. Within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, the Office aims to attract new and additional resources for United Nations programmes, with emphasis on field-based projects. The number of external inquiries received by the Office from prospective partners in 2006 reached close to 500.

II. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

6. The partnership with the United Nations Foundation reached significant milestones in 2006. UNFIP was established in response to Robert E. (Ted) Turner's philanthropic gift of $1 billion to support United Nations causes. The United Nations Foundation was created to disburse the funds to the Organization through UNFIP. UNFIP was to collaborate with United Nations system organizations to identify innovative, high-impact projects within the Foundation's strategic areas of focus, namely, children's health, women and population, the environment, and peace, security and human rights. From 2000, the Millennium Development Goals provided an overall framework for United Nations Foundation/UNFIP programming.

7. UNFIP projects and activities have been implemented according to guidelines issued by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), in line with the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The agencies' rules, regulations and procedures provide the framework for administration, financial management, monitoring and evaluation of projects and activities. By 2006, United Nations Foundation allocations to UNFIP projects and activities reached the level of $994.4 million for 400 projects implemented by 39 United Nations agencies covering activities in 123 countries. The commitment by Ted Turner and his team has enabled the United Nations to benefit from the support of other donors and partners in the amount of $561 million. Moreover, the partnership with the United Nations Foundation has generated an additional $335 million of parallel contributions.

A. Children's health

8. From inception to December 2006 the total value of the children's health programme amounted to $613.4 million. The programme promotes child survival by addressing several key preventable diseases, in line with Millennium Development Goal 4, which calls for reduction of the mortality rate of children under five by two thirds by 2015. The programme strategy is also consistent with priorities established at the World Summit for Children held in 1990.

9. Two underlying premises of the programme are:

(a) Immunizations are one of the most cost-effective preventive interventions;

(b) Strengthening countries' public health capacities and infrastructures builds upon the accomplishments of past disease-combating initiatives to launch new ones, such as the Measles Initiative.

10. More than 10 million children under the age of five die each year, most frequently from diarrhoea, pneumonia, malnutrition, measles and malaria. The children's health programme addresses select diseases through extensive prevention strategies.

11. Priority activities in the children's health portfolio include:

(a) Eradicating polio;

(b) Reducing measles mortality by 90 per cent globally;

(c) Preventing malaria through integration of activities (e.g., distribution of nets) with measles control;

(d) Supporting the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

(e) Technological disease surveillance and data-gathering.

12. Initially, the centrepiece of the children's health strategy was prevention initiatives. These included tobacco use prevention, the community-based children's health programmes, and micronutrient supplementation.

13. While these programmes had measurable successes, none offered the opportunity to mobilize donors or achieve global impact to the level that

immunizations initiatives do; it was decided, therefore, to integrate those efforts whenever possible and appropriate with large-scale immunization activities.

Polio eradication

14. Transmission of wild polio virus is declining rapidly. The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary International, in partnership with donor Governments, the Gates Foundation, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization continue to spearhead efforts to achieve polio eradication through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the largest international public health effort in history. As a result, the number of countries where polio is still endemic had decreased to 30 by 2006. The public health infrastructure, particularly the cold chain and disease surveillance system, has been strengthened, favourably impacting other disease control efforts.

Measles prevention

15. Measles claim 345,000 lives each year — more than half of them in Asia. Measles is the single leading vaccine preventable cause of death among children despite vaccination costs of less than one dollar per child. The Measles Initiative was launched in 2001 with a long-term commitment to control measles deaths starting in Africa. Leading the Measles Initiative are the American Red Cross, WHO, UNICEF, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the United Nations Foundation/UNFIP. In just five years (2001-2005) the Initiative helped to reduce global measles mortality by 60 per cent, surpassing the United Nations goal of 50 per cent, by vaccinating over 360 million children. In Africa mortality was reduced by 75 per cent. Specifically, the number of global measles deaths declined from an estimated 873,000 in 1999 to 345,000. The Measles Initiative will continue to support the 47 priority countries identified by WHO and the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy goal to reduce measles deaths by 90 per cent by 2010. The focus is on the countries that account for the majority of measles deaths, particularly, India and Pakistan.

B. Women and population

16. The total value of the women and population programme since its inception was $133.8 million as at 31 December 2006. Its objective is supporting "universal access to reproductive health services and supplies by 2015" — the central goal set by the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development in 1994. In working towards that goal, support was provided to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WHO, and selected non-governmental organization (NGO) partners in the following priority areas:

(a) Increasing focus on adolescent girls in the least developed countries through advocacy and investment in field programmes, with priority to Africa;

(b) Supporting the achievement by 2015 of the goal of universal access to reproductive health services;

(c) Advocating global priorities for sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a focus on combating misinformation in public debate and concerted attacks on empirical information and the scientific process.

17. To advance these priorities, activities were focused on two areas.

Coalition for Adolescent Girls

18. In 2006 the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP developed the Coalition for Adolescent Girls to address the issue that one in five people today is an adolescent, and 85 per cent of the more than 1 billion adolescents live in developing countries. Their choices and opportunities will determine future trends, for instance, whether world population stabilizes at 8 billion or 10 billion; the direction of the environmental future of the world; or whether the cycle of poverty is broken.

19. In 2006, the Coalition formed four working groups to focus on the priority areas of girls' education, child marriage, girls and HIV/AIDS, and increasing economic opportunities for women. Key accomplishments for the Coalition included:

(a) A partnership with the Nike Foundation: the United Nations Foundation provides staff support, strategic direction for the Coalition and a contribution of $250,000, while the Nike Foundation provides communications expertise and financial resources ($1 million);

(b) Close cooperation with the United Nations system: the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP helped create an informal United Nations working group on adolescent girls to leverage the United Nations programming by creating system-wide guidelines for adolescent girl programming and to represent a collective United Nations voice in the Coalition;

(c) Extensive outreach to more than 30 NGO partners to engage them actively in the Coalition's work. Key advisors from the Population Council, the International Centre for Research on Women, and the International Women's Health Coalition participate in at least one of the four Coalition working groups;

(d) Two research projects were undertaken:

(i) Programmatic research: identifying gaps in the current state of knowledge, key leverage points, and best practices in programming for each of the Coalition's priority areas;

(ii) Communications research: extensive focus groups and other opinion research to identify the most effective language in cultivating new partners and public engagement in the Coalition. Priority has been given to test the best approaches for engaging business and faith leaders.

Supporting and strengthening the United Nations Population Fund

20. As the only multilateral donor with a reproductive health focus at the country level, UNFPA is internationally recognized as the global voice for sexual and reproductive health and rights. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP support UNFPA activities, including adoption of a new Millennium Development Goals target on universal access to reproductive health services and ensuring access to reproductive health supplies and condoms. A 2004 grant helped improve UNFPA

coordination with other commodity donors and helped build UNFPA capacity for data management and forecasting. The project generated impressive results: commodity shortages were significantly averted and gaps minimized, especially in the public distribution channels of several African countries. In 2006, UNFPA identified support for its regional advocacy efforts in Europe and Asia as the priority area where the United Nations Foundation could mobilize resources for 2007 and 2008. Commitments have already been obtained from the Hewlett and MacArthur Foundations.

C. Environment

21. The funding priorities under environment are sustainable energy and climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. The overall environment portfolio as at 31 December 2006 is valued at $164.6 million, of which $78.6 million is for biodiversity/sustainable development and $56.2 million for sustainable energy and climate change. The balance, $29.8 million, has been programmed in other areas.

Sustainable energy and climate change

22. At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, energy was identified as central to development and poverty reduction as part of the Millennium Development Goals. Modern energy services are critically important to the world economy, yet more than 1 billion, mostly rural, people are not served by an electric power grid. The objective of the United Nations Foundation under this programme area is to address the urgent need for a global transition to low-carbon energy technologies, consistent with global development needs.

The African Rural Energy Enterprise Development Programme

23. To provide energy services to the poor in Africa, the African Rural Energy Enterprise Development Programme was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2000 with funding from the United Nations Foundation, for operations in Ghana, Mali, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The Programme supports new sustainable energy enterprises that use clean, efficient, and renewable energy technologies while reducing the environmental and health consequences of existing energy use patterns. The Programme offers enterprise development services and start-up financing that allows local entrepreneurs to plan and structure energy companies for growth and attracts mainstream financial investors. To date, over $1.7 million in loan capital has been approved for investments in 35 enterprises that provide products such as solar electric systems and better cook stoves, serving 331,000 people and offsetting 421,637 tons of carbon dioxide annually. Approximately 80 per cent of the Programme's investments are performing according to plan.

Promoting investment in energy efficiency

24. Based on current trends, Brazil, China and India will more than double their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Unlocking potential energy efficiency savings requires projects that identify and eliminate energy waste. A five-year joint UNEP/World Bank project entitled "Developing Financial Intermediation

Mechanisms for Energy-Efficiency Projects in Brazil, China and India" was completed in May 2006. The project helped financial institutions in the three countries to increase support to energy efficiency investment projects. It examined the role of energy efficiency lending windows in commercial banks, developed support mechanisms for energy service companies, explored means of increasing equity funding of energy efficiency projects, and looked at how guarantee facilities could facilitate loans to energy efficiency projects.

25. The project helped five of India's largest banks develop new energy efficiency lending programmes; assisted local banks in China to develop lending programmes for energy efficiency projects, partly financed by a $200 million World Bank loan; and demonstrated that retrofits in buildings and factories in Brazil, China and India could reduce energy use by at least 25 per cent, saving hundreds of millions of dollars while cutting air pollution and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

International Bio-energy Initiative

26. The potential for the United Nations to increase awareness of the impact of modern bio-energy technologies on energy access and economic development in developing countries is unique. Building on pilot projects on biogas and energy services, the United Nations Foundation worked first with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to include biofuels in economic and trade policy discussions, which led to an important speech by Ted Turner to the World Trade Organization in September 2006. Since that time, the United Nations Foundation has built alliances with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNCTAD, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in support of the United Nations Bio-energy Initiative to help countries determine their potential for domestic biofuels production and exports. The Initiative supports development of sustainable regional and national programmes for bio-energy development and seeks to ensure that bio-energy production and use is sustainable, consistent with climate strategy, and eligible for carbon credits and carbon finance.

Biodiversity and sustainable development

27. The priorities and objectives of the biodiversity and sustainable development programme include:

(a) Engaging the tourism industry to support sustainable tourism development in and around World Heritage sites, for example, through the World Heritage Alliance, with Expedia, Inc.;

(b) Creating market-based approaches to sustainable community-based development in high biodiversity areas and addressing rural income generation through the sustainable use of natural resources;

(c) Identifying opportunities to help ensure that local communities and biodiversity are not adversely affected in strategies to address climate change.

Promoting the conservation of World Heritage natural sites

28. The following examples of ongoing United Nations Foundation/UNFIP initiatives illustrate achievements of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Centre.

Rapid Response Facility

29. The Rapid Response Facility is a small grant programme that provides fast-track emergency funding to World Heritage natural sites facing an acute threat. Launched in March 2006, the Facility is a two-year pilot initiative of Fauna and Flora International, UNESCO and the United Nations Foundation, in cooperation with UNFIP, offering grants up to $30,000. The facility has received 34 applications and awarded 6 small grants, involving acute levels of poaching, post-conflict recovery of ranger capacity, anthropogenic bush fire and illegal road construction.

Partnership for the Conservation of Sumatran Natural Heritage

30. The vast tropical forests that are home to the orangutan, the Sumatran rhino, the Sumatran tiger, and the Sumatran elephant are protected within three national parks — Kerinci Seblat, Bukit Barisan Selatan, and Gunung Leuser — that together, form the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra World Heritage site. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP, in partnership with the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund are supporting, through the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, a concerted effort to engage local communities, municipal governments and local NGOs in finding long-term solutions. Collaborative management councils involving these stakeholders have been developed focusing on law enforcement, natural resource management and mitigation of human-elephant conflicts. Executed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, the work has also supported the Bukit Barisan Selatan park authorities in strengthening their anti-poaching work, helping with the judicial process, from evidence gathering to prosecution.

D. Peace, security and human rights

31. Within the peace, security and human rights portfolio, UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation are focused on institutional strengthening of the United Nations and on broader initiatives that create better understanding of the Organization's role in peace, human security and development supported with small, catalytic grants. The total value of this portfolio as at 31 December 2006 was $49.5 million, comprised of 58 projects.

32. To build awareness in the United States and in peacekeeping donor countries about the vital and effective contribution peacekeeping makes, in 2006 the United Nations Foundation supported the launch of a campaign by DPKO entitled, "Peacekeeping Works". The campaign has focused on identifying peacekeeping stories from the field, developing a web-based platform for the campaign, and working with other stakeholders and potential supporters.

E. Strategic initiatives

33. The total value of this portfolio as at 31 December 2006 was $33 million and comprised 52 projects. The projects under this heading were typically in response to a special need and provided an opportunity to contribute to a strategic aspect of the work of the United Nations and advance its causes.

34. New initiatives are envisaged under this heading that aim to take advantage of the charitable status of the United Nations Foundation under United States law.

Partnerships are being developed with interested United Nations entities that wish to tap the United States donor community to support United Nations causes. The Foundation undertakes fund-raising activities through special events or through an appeal on their webpage. Partnerships have been developed with the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. Agencies considering similar agreements are UNDP, UNIFEM and WHO.

United Nations Dialogue with the Global South

35. One success story involves the United Nations Dialogue with the Global South. Approved in 2004, the project has built partnerships for the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) with universities and research institutions in developing countries. Partnerships were established to provide exchange opportunities with the American University in Cairo, Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the National University of Singapore (Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy), and Tsing Hua University in Beijing and the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

Vodafone Group Foundation

36. The United Nations Foundation partnership with the Vodafone Group Foundation began operations in October 2005 with a $18.3 million multi-year commitment from the Vodafone Group Foundation and a matching $9.1 million from the United Nations Foundation. In 2006 the partnership worked to support the efforts of United Nations entities to use telecommunications and technology to strengthen their missions. UNFIP served on the Advisory Committee of that initiative and played a central role in needs assessment and programme management. Besides publishing a study on the use of mobile phones to improve access to banking services, the partnership focused on the two areas discussed below.

Strengthening disease surveillance using handheld devices

37. In 2006, the partnership supported WHO and DataDyne to develop the first free, open-source disease surveillance programme that empowered health workers to gather health data using personal digital assistants (PDAs). WHO and DataDyne launched systems in Kenya and Zambia, and began operations in Burkina Faso.

Strengthening emergency communications in disaster response

38. In 2006, the partnership supported the NGO Télécoms Sans Frontières to become a worldwide standby partner for UNICEF and OCHA. Télécoms Sans Frontières now deploys rapid response telecom teams to United Nations missions everywhere in the world within 48 hours of an emergency. Télécoms Sans Frontières teams have deployed to support United Nations operations in Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and Suriname. The partnership also supported: (i) the development of the World Food Programme (WFP) first emergency information and communications technology (ICT) best practices guide; (ii) the development of a new emergency ICT management training programme for

ICT officers from WFP, other United Nations agencies and NGOs; and (iii) an emergency ICT software system called EMMA (Emergency Management Mapping Application).

III. United Nations Democracy Fund

39. The United Nations Democracy Fund was announced by the Secretary-General in July 2005. In the World Summit Outcome, world leaders welcomed "the establishment of a Democracy Fund at the United Nations". The Secretary-General tasked UNFIP to develop UNDEF into a grants-making facility to support partnerships between civil society and the United Nations aimed at the promotion of democratic values. The Fund was established on the principle that there is no single model of democracy, and that it does not belong to any country or region. A Programme Consultative Group for the Democracy Fund was created with the participation of DPKO, DPA, UNDG, UNDP, UNIFEM, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

40. Within the first quarter of 2006, staff was hired; a budget was approved; and project proposal and project document guidelines were drafted and agreed upon with the seven United Nations agencies in the Programme Consultative Group. A project database and a website have been developed.

41. The first UNDEF Advisory Board meeting took place on 6 March 2006 to approve the Governance and Programmatic Frameworks of the Democracy Fund.

42. The Democracy Fund launched its first call for project proposals through an innovative online application system that facilitated access to civil society organizations, while accepting fax or mail submissions from low Internet connectivity areas. A total of 1,303 applications from 131 countries (916 by civil society organizations and the rest from the United Nations, academia and Governments) were submitted within 20 working days. Resident coordinators and special representatives of the Secretary-General provided advisory notes on the applicants' standing and managerial capacity, the compatibility between the proposed initiative and the country's development priority and the willingness of a United Nations entity to act as executing agency for the NGO, in the event a grant was awarded.

43. The Office screened the proposals for eligibility. An in-depth analysis of the proposals by geographic area was undertaken by the Programme Consultative Group. The Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs provided support to study the proposals, establish priorities, assess the merits and rank each batch. This produced a recommendation of 180 concepts that the Advisory Board received in July 2006. The Board recommended 125 initiatives to the Secretary-General. On 28 August, the Secretary-General approved funding worth $36 million for the recommended concepts, with a special focus on gender equality in the public arena and greater participation of women. Project implementation took place based on consistency with country programmes and no-objection from Governments. Key programme areas are:

(a) Civic education, electoral support and political parties, $10 million for 35 projects;

(b) Democratic dialogue and constitutional processes, $9.8 million for 32 projects;

(c) Civil society empowerment, $5.2 million for 20 projects;

(d) Accountability, transparency and integrity, $5.8 million for 20 projects;

(e) Human rights and fundamental freedoms, $3.1 million for 11 projects;

(f) Access to information, $2 million for 7 projects.

44. The Office is developing a monitoring and evaluation strategy to measure impact and has reserved 10 per cent of each grant for evaluation.

45. To support the first round funding recommendations, the Office organized four additional meetings of the Advisory Board, and parallel meetings of the Programme Consultative Group. At the second meeting, on 18 July 2006, the Board agreed to recommend 125 projects to the Secretary-General for approval. At the third meeting, on 12 December, the Board reviewed progress in project implementation and guidelines for monitoring and evaluation. In April 2007, the Board reviewed lessons learned in the first year of operations and considered how to proceed to the second funding round. The four meetings of the Programme Consultative Group were held on 24 March, 21 June and 14 August 2006 and on 12 January 2007.

46. The Office worked to increase the resources of the Democracy Fund and convened two well-attended donor meetings on 1 May and 11 October 2006 to inform donors of its activities and seek guidance on strategic matters. At the World Summit, a total of 17 Member States pledged some $42 million. In 2006, Denmark, Georgia, Ireland, Lithuania, Mongolia, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Sweden made first time contributions to the Democracy Fund.

47. The Office has developed partnerships with Member States, NGOs and think tanks. A dialogue on democracy promotion strategies was organized in New York on 18 July 2006, a dialogue on democratic transitions was sponsored by the Hungarian Government in Budapest on 23 and 24 April 2007. The Government of France offered to debate on democracy and human rights in side meetings at the Human Rights Council in 2008, and the Government of Benin is considering an international symposium on the "Alternance Démocratique", the impact on young democracies of the succession of (democratic) Governments in early 2008.

48. Contacts have been made with a number of think tanks and organizations, such as the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, the International Republican Institute, Internews, National Endowment for Democracy, Freedom House, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and others. Initial relationships with the Toledo International Center for Peace, the Democracy Coalition Project, the Ford Foundation and the International Crisis Group have also been established. The Brazilian "Conectas Human Rights", has initiated the process of networking UNDEF grantees with a view to exchanging experiences and expertise to explore possible cooperation.

49. Support is being provided to both — the Community of Democracies and the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies processes. Contacts have been maintained with a number of regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States and the European Commission.

50. UNDEF has established strong links with the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OECD) for future consultations and collaboration. Briefings were organized for parliamentary delegations from Canada, India, Spain, the House of Commons of the United Kingdom and the European Parliament. A briefing was organized for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries and similar briefings were suggested for other regional groups: the Francophonie at the proposal of France, the European Union Member States under the Presidency of Germany and the Eastern European cluster upon the invitation of Hungary.

51. Within the United Nations, numerous contacts and meetings have been held to establish working relationships that provide for mutual support. The Democracy Fund worked with the Codification Division of the OLA to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General on the rule of law. The Democracy Fund met with the UNESCO Extra-budgetary Resources Mobilization Office to discuss support to UNESCO media and civic education work. The Democracy Fund collaborated with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the preparatory work of the seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government, where UNDEF will co-host with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), and the International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) a workshop on parliamentary and electoral systems and where the Chair of the UNDEF Advisory Board will address the plenary session. The Democracy Fund and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security have met to discuss best practices and to explore how human security and democracy can be linked in practical programmatic terms. The Executive Head of the Democracy Fund met members of the UNDP Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Advisory Committee on 21 March 2006 to exchange information on outreach to civil society. Meetings were held with the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs to establish common procedures for the analysis of and support to elections-related projects. Country-focused meetings were held with the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Timor Leste and Guinea-Bissau.

52. In the biennium 2006-2007, the Democracy Fund attended meetings organized by strategic partners, including the Africa Governance Forum, the World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS) World Assembly, the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, the IPU Annual Assemblies, the Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy and the OECD-Development Assistance Committee Network on Governance. Collaborative agreements have been signed with the Club of Madrid, the Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces, IDEA, and the Institute for Democracy in South Africa, IFES, IPU, Conectas Human Rights, the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum, Interpeace, and International Centre for Democratic Transition and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences.

53. The Democracy Fund's website contains news from Member States that relate to the debate on democracy building and democracy assistance, a monthly update on its activities and updated information on contributions, outreach and partners. It includes "News from the Field" which portrays progress and challenges of the UNDEF-funded projects worldwide. The Democracy Fund has quickly become a recognized voice on democracy at international forums. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated at the UNDEF fourth Board meeting that "in a relatively short period, it has become a hub for the United Nations democracy agenda".

IV. Partnership advisory services and outreach

54. The General Assembly, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, recognized the importance of partnering with civil society and urged Member States "to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts". UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation have worked together to achieve that goal.

55. With the encouragement of the United Nations Foundation, the United Nations Office for Partnerships works to strengthen the Organization's expertise and capacity to engage corporations, foundations and individuals in United Nations causes and support the United Nations system in its advocacy and outreach efforts through partnership building.

56. The Office for Partnerships serves as a gateway to engage corporations, foundations and civil society to help achieve United Nations goals, especially the Millennium Development Goals. The expertise of the Office, which provides advice to United Nations entities as well as to external organizations, is in the following areas:

(a) Screening of internal and external inquiries;

(b) Provision of advice on United Nations procedures and best practices;

(c) Design of programmes and projects;

(d) Establishment and, in some cases, management of global and regional networks;

(e) Development of creative financing mechanisms.

57. The 2005 World Summit Outcome proved to be the catalyst for partnerships with many internationally active private enterprises. Companies large and small have approached the Office to offer services or financial support to the United Nations or to seek advice on how to engage in practical ways to find sustainable solutions to some of the world's most challenging and often intractable problems. Although most of the grant-making of private and corporate foundations is concentrated in the largest emerging economies, the Office has seen a steady increase in the expressions of interest for partnering in United Nations-led poverty reduction, disaster prevention and environmental programmes, as well as disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, in the least developed countries.

A. Partnership advisory services

58. The Office handled almost 500 inquiries from partners, NGOs, and foundations to explore possible collaboration with the United Nations system, including the following: Aflatoun Child Savings International, Aga Khan Foundation, Amnesty International USA, Clinton Global Initiative, Conscious Management Scandinavia, Dubai School of Government, European Foundation Centre, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, Foreign Policy Association, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Google.org, International Business Leaders Forum, International Ultralight Technology Foundation, Mandela Institute, Medical Knowledge Institute, Nestlé, Pfizer, Save the Children, Scojo Foundation, Singapore

Trade Commission, Standard Chartered Bank, Universal Education Foundation, United States Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Foreign Policy Group.

59. During 2006, the Partnership Office provided technical assistance to small and medium-sized United Nations entities, expanding their outreach to private funders and corporate partners. With support from the Office, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has engaged in dialogue with a major corporation for a partnership on cybercrime. The Office for Partnerships has been assisting the UNODC in building partnerships and public advocacy related to anti-trafficking of human beings. The Office also initiated discussions with UN-Habitat and UNIFEM about building partnerships in support of their programmes and thematic trust funds.

60. Examples of work during 2006 with the private sector, foundations, civil society organizations and with the United Nations system are discussed below.

Cariplo Foundation

61. In partnership with the Fiorello H. LaGuardia Foundation, the Office developed a strategic alliance with the Cariplo Foundation to set up a facility in Italy that will provide support and facilitation for engagement of Italian foundations in the work of the United Nations, with particular focus on joint funding of projects on the ground.

Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy

62. The Office serves on the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy Excellence Awards Selection Committee. Other members of the Committee include representatives from the General Electric Foundation, Fortune Magazine, Foundation Strategy Group, Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development, the Pfizer Foundation, Venture Philanthropy Partners, McKinsey & Company, Jumpstart and the Target Foundation.

Commonwealth Business Council

63. The Office has developed a collaboration with the Commonwealth Business Council, including working on a partnerships arrangement on the Council's campaign entitled "Linking Africa", which aims to support the goals of the African Union and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by creating the first detailed continent-wide economic profile and database on a country-by-country basis. The Council has also proposed the creation of a global business council in partnership with the United Nations.

Dow Chemical

64. The Office co-hosted an event at United Nations Headquarters on 25 June 2006 to present the 2015 Sustainability Goals for Dow, a multi-faceted programme to address some of the most pressing economic, social and environmental concerns facing the global community, reflected in the Millennium Development Goals. As a result of this collaboration, Dow is sponsoring the Blue Planet Run, an endurance run across many countries to raise funds and awareness of the need to bring safe drinking water to 1.2 billion people. The first Blue Planet Run was launched at United Nations Headquarters in June 2007.

Education Development Center

65. The Office collaborated on the Power Users of Technology initiative of the Education Development Center, which gathers new knowledge about power users, their interaction and relations with technology and its impact on their career, life choices and roles. It is in regular contact with the Center and has facilitated the Center's engagement with the Universal Education Foundation.

European Foundation Centre

66. The Office introduced United Nations entities to the European Foundation Centre — an umbrella organization of over 500 European foundations. Having joined the Centre's Programme Committee in 2003, the Office has organized panel discussions on the Millennium Development Goals, facilitated high-level United Nations participation at the Centre's annual conferences, such as the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General's keynote speech at the 2004 annual conference. The Office also secured adoption of the Millennium Development Goals by the International Committee of the European Foundation Centre, as part of the Centre's agenda to get involved with global problems and challenges outside of the region. In 2005 the Office organized and chaired a session on the theme "The United Nations at 60: is it ready to reform? What is Europe's role?" This presence over the years has facilitated a closer relationship with leading European foundations.

Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University

67. The Office provided briefings to students at the Fletcher School and explored opportunities to work together on developing online educational compendia for internet access ("Open University").

Global Hand

68. The Office worked with the NGO Global Hand, together with the United Nations Global Compact office and OCHA to develop a new portal on the website www.un.org for the private sector wishing to support the United Nations by donating Funds, expertise or equipment to United Nations entities.

Goldman Sachs

69. The Office developed a network of young Wall Street executives with interest in supporting United Nations causes, specifically programmes involving youth and microfinance.

Google.org

70. The Office was the first point of contact for Google.org and has facilitated numerous initiatives between Google.org and the United Nations including with OCHA, UNDP, WHO, as well as the United Nations Foundation. The Executive Director of Google.org has committed to support programmes in the health sector and on climate change.

Greater Tumen Initiative

71. Since November 2005 the Office has provided advice to the UNDP-led Greater Tumen Initiative on the establishment of a Business Advisory Council for the

Greater Tumen Region. The Office has developed a concept for a Business Advisory Council to bring new investments to the region in the areas of, inter alia, energy, tourism and transport.

International Council for Toys Industry CARE Process

72. The Office has been advising the International Council for Toys Industry CARE (Caring, Awareness, Responsible, Ethical) Process — the international toy industry's ethical manufacturing programme, aimed at ensuring safe and humane workplace environments for toy factory workers worldwide — on United Nations collaboration.

International Initiative on Non-food Crops

73. Working with Kent County Council, Imperial College, and Lees Court Estate, the Office provided advice on the establishment of an International Initiative for Non-food Crops, and ensured that FAO, UNEP, UNDP, inter alia, became collaborators. The long-term vision is that a significant proportion of demand for energy and raw materials should be met through the commercial exploitation of crops grown scientifically to stimulate innovation, strengthen the rural economy, enhance biodiversity, leading to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and waste, particularly biodegradable waste going to landfill, and slower depletion of finite natural resources.

Louise T. Blouin Foundation

74. The Office provided advice in programme development and engagement of the United Nations in the Global Creative Leadership Summit, hosted by the Louise T. Blouin Foundation in New York City in 2006, which brought together leaders in business, technology, government, science and the arts, to provide insights that will have practical implications for problem-solving across disciplines. The chairman of the Louise T. Blouin Foundation is dedicating the Foundation's efforts to United Nations causes.

Microsoft

75. The Office introduced Microsoft to various United Nations entities. A number of partnerships have been developed including: Unlimited Potential; Partners in Learning; and the Software Donation to NGOs Programme, a national pilot that Microsoft is considering launching on a global basis.

Regional Centre for Partnerships in the Middle East and North Africa Region

76. The Office developed a proposal for the establishment of a Regional Centre for Partnerships in the Middle East and North Africa Region — a joint initiative of the State of Qatar and the United Nations to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships, and serve as a centre of excellence for training, within the region.

Synergos Institute

77. The Office has developed a strategic alliance with the Synergos Institute to advise members of their Global Philanthropists Circle, on the most effective ways to collaborate on United Nations projects globally. The Office also works with the

Institute's multi-stakeholder partnerships section to explore ways to bring the United Nations into its activities.

United Nations International Crime and Justice Research Institute

78. The United Nations International Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), in Turin, Italy, requested advice on securing partnerships for an extensive research project on combating terrorism. The Office facilitated collaboration with the Nuclear Threat Initiative which resulted in a grant to UNICRI of $50,000 that provided much needed support from a region outside Europe. Currently advice is being provided to UNICRI on creating an advisory board to reach out to civil society.

World Diversity Cup for Peace

79. The Office has been advising on United Nations engagement for this annual youth soccer tournament featuring boys and girls diversity teams, for example, Catholics and Protestants from Belfast, Northern Ireland, selected in conjunction with the mayors of the world's largest cities.

B. Outreach

80. The Office for Partnerships provides a unique platform for outreach and advocacy focusing on raising awareness of the work of the United Nations and on identifying new partners to support achievement of the goals of the Millennium Declaration. The Office benefits from the leadership of the Department of Public Information. It participates in numerous dialogues with the private sector and civil society. Some examples are discussed below.

Alliance Towards Harnessing Global Opportunities

81. In 2005 and 2006, young professionals and students came together at the Alliance Towards Harnessing Global Opportunities youth symposium to exchange ideas about how to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The Office supported the event and delivered keynote speeches at both symposiums.

Bending the arc

82. In September 2006, the Office co-sponsored a conference on the theme "Bending the arc: the business of attaining the Millennium Development Goals in Africa" which included representatives from the New Partnership for Africa's Development secretariat, the African Business Roundtable, civil society and the private sector.

Collaboration on a United Nations documentary

83. The Office collaborated with film director Romuald Sciora on a series of short documentaries examining the leadership and accomplishments of the last four Secretaries-General of the United Nations as well as on a full-length documentary capturing the larger picture of the Organization today and in coming years.

84. Related to this documentary, the Office is collaborating with Mr. Sciora, the Department of Public Information and Marvel Comics to create and distribute comic

books featuring the work of the United Nations to over a million children throughout the United States.

Microsoft CEO Summit

85. The Office participated in the annual Microsoft CEO Summit, which brings together over 100 chief executive officers from the world's top companies to discuss emerging social, political, economic, technological and demographic trends. This presented an opportunity to discuss strategies for addressing global problems and present some of the activities of the United Nations.

Our common humanity

86. The Office was a key partner to an event, entitled "Our common humanity in the Information Age: Principles and Values for Development", held in November 2006, organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and facilitated the participation of actress Julia Ormond, Google Chief Executive Larry Brilliant, and philanthropist Louise Blouin MacBain.

United States Chamber of Commerce

87. The Office has also supported the development of a partnership between the United Nations and the United States Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber engages United States companies on development issues, including human rights. The Office co-hosted two conferences in 2006 on the theme "The role of the private sector in international aid and development" with the Chamber's Business Civic Leadership Center, one of which was held at United Nations Headquarters.

V. Lessons learned

88. The successful partnership between UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation, now in its ninth year, has provided some useful models for engaging non-State actors. Moreover, it has enabled the United Nations Office for Partnerships to become a gateway for new alliances and partnerships for the United Nations system to work more effectively with the private sector and civil society. The UNFIP experience was also beneficial in setting up the United Nations Democracy Fund. At the same time, there are some valuable lessons to be learned, which are summarized below.

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

89. Experience has shown that there is sometimes a gap between expectation and reality, both on the part of the United Nations system and donors. There is also a need to take into account different cultures of stakeholders. In this regard, agreeing on common goals and a shared vision is crucial for successful partnerships.

90. Relationship and knowledge management is a challenge even when all parties are committed and enthusiastic. Successful partnerships should allow for open communication as well as regular dialogue with all stakeholders.

91. Implementing entities and potential partners have highlighted the need for simplified administration and management of grants. The United Nations system

could benefit from developing fast-track implementation procedures without compromising on accountability.

United Nations Democracy Fund

92. The assessment role of the United Nations country teams has proven a useful tool to ensuring the relevance of projects proposed. The Fund intends to put in place streamlined procedures to facilitate thorough assessments at the national level.

93. Partnering with unknown local NGOs with possibly weak management systems could impact the results. Uniformed criteria for partner selection are key to ensuring adequate managerial capacities of the grantees.

94. Sharing information on project management and administrative operations regularly with the Advisory Board as well as clear communication in both directions is crucial for transparency and knowledge management. Detailed information on the UNDEF budget, the budget performance and grants disbursement could also be posted on the website.

Partnership advisory services and outreach

95. The Office uses the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Community issued by the Secretary-General in July 2000. Experience has shown that there is a need to both update the Guidelines and ensure their uniform application within the United Nations system. The Office could establish a system-wide working group to address those issues.

96. There is a need for a simplified system to share lessons learned and best practices with regards to partnerships with the private sector. This will ensure knowledge transfer and facilitate the replication of successful initiatives throughout the United Nations system.

97. One of the key functions of partnering includes outreach to the private sector through, inter alia, high quality public information materials. With an average of nearly 500 enquiries per annum, the Office needs to have appropriate capacity to provide advice on collaboration with the United Nations family.

VI. Conclusions

98. The partnership with the United Nations Foundation has prospered and yielded dividends in the form of new and additional resources for United Nations causes. The Foundation is now working on a second phase that should yield another $1 billion from other partners, to be managed through UNFIP, building on highly successful programmes.

99. In just over one year, the United Nations Democracy Fund has established itself as a strategic fund with a unique niche that looks to civil society as a vital pillar of democracy. Partnerships with civil society actors have proved to be a good tool to further the Democracy Fund agenda.

100. Building on the lessons learned in the last nine years, the United Nations Office for Partnerships serves as a gateway to the outside world for collaboration with the United Nations system. It has enabled the creation of numerous new partnerships and provided strategic advice to both the United Nations system and external partners.

Annex I

Projects funded through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, by programme area

	As at 31 December 2005		*Approvals in 2006*		*Total*		*Contributed by:*		
Programme area	*Number of projects*	*Value (United States dollars)*	*Number of projects*	*Value (United States dollars)*	*Number of projects*	*Value (United States dollars)*	*Other donors*	*United Nations Foundation*	*Parallel donors*
Children's health	61	432 450 548	8	180 334 191	69	613 405 568	470 929 290	142 476 278	58 441 101
Population and women	87	132 108 854	3	3 206 486	90	133 815 340	45 999 651	118 405 878	23 288 737
Environment	125	167 269 871	6	1 025 161	131	164 607 529	13 389 255	35 920 943	226 801 514
Peace, security and human rights	56	51 551 985	2	105 300	58	49 485 198	17 555 948	116 259 392	20 478 250
Other	47	26 152 527	5	6 467 096	52	33 112 124	13 241 162	20 247 961	6 083 311
Total	**376**	**809 533 785**	**24**	**191 138 234**	**400**	**994 425 758**	**561 115 306**	**433 310 452**	**335 092 913**

Annex II

Projects funded through the United Nations Democracy Fund, by programme area

	As at 31 December 2006	
Programme area	*Number of projects*	*Value (United States dollars)*
Civic education, electoral support and political parties	35	9 968 448
Democratic dialogue and constitutional processes	32	9 813 719
Civil society empowerment	20	5 271 404
Accountability, transparency and integrity	20	5 822 252
Human rights and fundamental freedoms	11	3 165 669
Access to information	7	1 980 588
Total	**125**	**36 022 079**

Annex III

Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor

(United States dollars)

Donor	*Cumulative contribution as at 31 December 2006*	*Cumulative contribution as at 30 June 2007*
Australia	7 303 974.44	7 303 974.44
Bulgaria		10 000.00
Chile	100 000.00	130 000.00
Croatia	5 000.00	5 000.00
Cyprus		5 000.00
Czech Republic	50 000.00	50 000.00
Denmark	265 017.67	265 017.67
Estonia	10 395.00	10 395.00
France	1 217 450.00	1 874 000.00
Georgia	24 942.69	24 942.69
Germany	3 184 784.50	3 184 784.50
Hungary	25 000.00	50 000.00
India	10 000 000.00	10 000 000.00
Ireland	658 724.00	658 724.00
Israel	17 500.00	27 500.00
Japan		10 000 000.00
Lithuania		13 277.69
Mongolia	10 000.00	10 000.00
Peru		20 000.00
Poland	100 000.00	150 000.00
Portugal	50 000.00	50 000.00
Qatar	6 000 000.00	6 000 000.00
Republic of Korea	1 000 000.00	1 000 000.00
Senegal	100 000.00	100 000.00
Slovenia	60 000.00	60 000.00
Spain	1 059 080.00	1 059 080.00
Sri Lanka	5 000.00	5 000.00
Sweden	729 450.04	729 450.04
United Kingdom	609 350.00	609 350.00
United States	17 920 000.00	17 920 000.00
Total	**50 505 668.34**	**61 325 496.03**

Annex IV

Composition of the 2007 United Nations Fund for International Partnerships Advisory Board

Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General (Chairperson)

Alicia Barcena, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Dalius Cekuolis, Vice-President, United Nations Economic and Social Council (Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations)

Lincoln C. Chen, M. D., President, China Medical Board of New York

Tiina Intelmann, Chairperson of the Second Committee, United Nations General Assembly (Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations)

Mary Oakes Smith, Fellow, Information Technology for Education and Health, World Bank

Franklin A. Thomas, The Ford Foundation Study Group

Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Amir Dossal (member, ex officio), Executive Director, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Annex V

Composition of the 2007 United Nations Democracy Fund Advisory Board

Member States (largest contributors)

Australia
France
Germany
India
Qatar
United States

Member States (geographical)

Benin
Chile
Hungary
Indonesia
South Africa

Non-governmental organizations

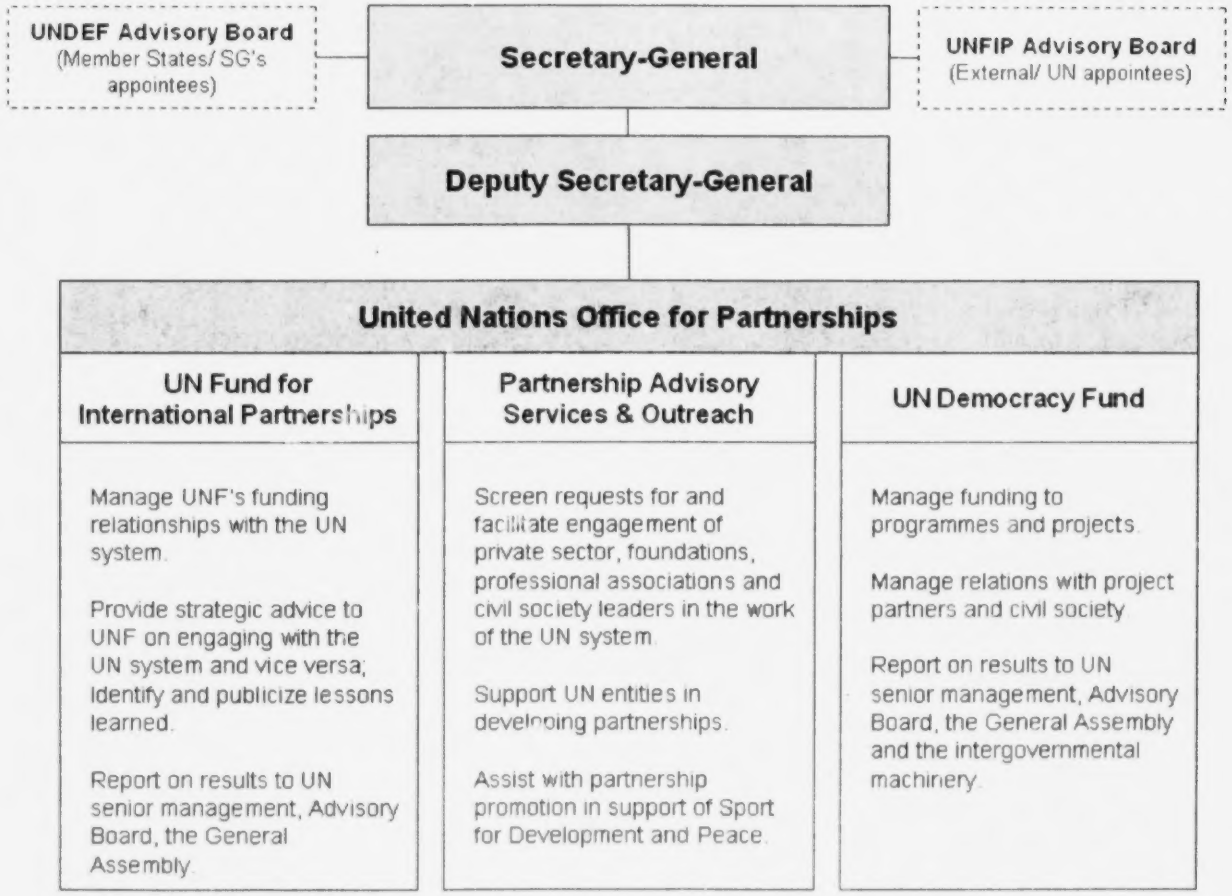
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
International Commission of Jurists

Others appointed by the Secretary-General

Michael Doyle
Guillermo O'Donnell
Rima Khalaf Hunaidi
Amir Dossal (member, ex officio)

Annex VI

Organizational chart of the United Nations Office for Partnerships


UNDEF Advisory Board
(Member States/ SG's appointees)
Secretary-General
UNFIP Advisory Board
(External/ UN appointees)
Deputy Secretary-General
United Nations Office for Partnerships
UN Fund for International Partnerships
Manage UNF's funding relationships with the UN system.
Provide strategic advice to UNF on engaging with the UN system and vice versa; Identify and publicize lessons learned.
Report on results to UN senior management, Advisory Board, the General Assembly.
Partnership Advisory Services & Outreach
Screen requests for and facilitate engagement of private sector, foundations, professional associations and civil society leaders in the work of the UN system.
Support UN entities in developing partnerships.
Assist with partnership promotion in support of Sport for Development and Peace.
UN Democracy Fund
Manage funding to programmes and projects.
Manage relations with project partners and civil society.
Report on results to UN senior management, Advisory Board, the General Assembly and the intergovernmental machinery.